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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5167

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 001265

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR S/CT - FRED VOGEL AND CA - ALCY FELICK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/21/2016  
TAGS: [KVPR](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [CVIS](#) [ASEC](#) [KHLS](#) [PA](#)  
SUBJECT: GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR - GLOBAL PURSUIT OF TERRORIST  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

REF: A. STATE 109771 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)  
[1](#)B. STATE 114021 (NOTAL)  
[1](#)C. ASUNCION 872

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY CONSULAR CHIEF SHARON WEBER FOR  
REASONS 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) ON DECEMBER 21, 2006, CONSUL MET WITH PARAGUAYAN  
IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR, ARSENIO ORUE, WHO PROVIDED THE  
FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

[1](#)A. (SBU) IMMIGRATION DATABASES:

1) (SBU) WHAT COMPUTERIZED IMMIGRATION DATABASES ARE USED  
TO TRACK ENTRIES AND EXITS? IS THE IMMIGRATION DATABASE  
AVAILABLE AT ALL PORTS OF ENTRY (POES)? IF IMMIGRATION  
DATABASES ARE AVAILABLE AT SOME POES, BUT NOT ALL, HOW DOES  
THE HOST GOVERNMENT DECIDE WHICH POES WILL RECEIVE THE TOOL?

SOME TIME IN EARLY 2007, PARAGUAY WILL DEPLOY A BIOMETRIC  
ENTRY/EXIT COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM THAT WAS DONATED BY THE SOUTH  
KOREAN GOVERNMENT. IN DECEMBER 2006, THE DIRECTOR OF  
IMMIGRATION HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE  
NEW BIOMETRIC SYSTEM AND EXPLAINED THAT DEPLOYMENT WILL TAKE  
PLACE IN VARIOUS STAGES. EQUIPMENT WILL BE SIMULTANEOUSLY  
DEPLOYED AT ASUNCION'S SILVIO PETTIROSSI AIRPORT, CIUDAD DEL  
ESTE'S GUARANI AIRPORT, THE FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE (LAND BORDER  
BETWEEN CIUDAD DEL ESTE AND FOZ DE IGUAQU, BRAZIL),  
ENCARNACION AND PUERTO FALCON. THESE POES ARE THE MOST  
HEAVILY TRAFFICKED. CURRENTLY THOUGH, A STAND-ALONE COMPUTER  
IS STATIONED AT EACH POE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO RIVERINE  
PORTS, TRES FRONTERAS, WHICH BORDERS ARGENTINA AND ITA EN  
RAMADA WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE YACHT AND GOLF CLUB ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS OF ASUNCION.

THERE IS NO CENTRALIZED IMMIGRATION DATABASE THAT ALLOWS  
IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN THE FIELD TO QUERY ALL IMMIGRATION  
RECORDS AT THIS TIME. EACH STAND-ALONE COMPUTER HOLDS  
INDEPENDENT RECORDS FOR THAT POE. RECORDS FROM POES ARE ALL  
FORWARDED TO IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS AND ENTERED INTO THEIR  
DATABASE WHICH CAN BE QUERIED BUT DOES NOT HOLD REAL TIME  
RECORDS. THE NEW BIOMETRIC SYSTEM WILL ALLOW EACH POE ACCESS  
TO REAL TIME IMMIGRATION RECORDS AND WILL QUERY THE  
CENTRALIZED DATABASE WHICH WILL BE LOCATED IN ASUNCION.  
CURRENTLY, IMMIGRATION ENTRY/EXIT RECORDS FROM 2003 TO DATE  
ARE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY. RECORDS FROM 1985 TO 2003 ARE  
PROJECTED TO BE DATA ENTERED IN THE FUTURE.

2) (SBU) WHAT PROBLEMS, IF ANY, LIMIT THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF THE SYSTEMS? FOR EXAMPLE, LIMITED TRAINING, POWER  
BROWNOUTS, BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS, CORRUPTION, ETC.?

IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CAN BE EASILY BRIBED.  
NON-CONNECTIVITY TO A CENTRALIZED DATABASE AND LACK OF  
FUNDING TO UPGRADE IMMIGRATION SYSTEMS LIMIT THE  
EFFECTIVENESS OF CHECKS AT POES. THE NEW BIOMETRIC

ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM WILL ALLOW IMMIGRATION OFFICERS REAL TIME ACCESS TO IMMIGRATION ENTRY AND EXIT RECORDS AND JUDICIAL ORDERS FORWARDED TO IMMIGRATION REGARDING DEPARTURE RESTRICTIONS. LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTERPOL AND OTHER JUDICIAL RECORDS MAY BE INCORPORATED IN THE FUTURE. DISCUSSIONS AMONG VARIOUS ENTITIES OF THE GOP FOR DATA SHARING IS IN PROCESS.

3) (SBU) HOW OFTEN ARE NATIONAL IMMIGRATION DATABASES UPDATED?

DAILY UPDATES:

SILVIO PETTIROSSI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN ASUNCION  
GUARANI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN CIUDAD DEL ESTE  
FALCON  
ENCARNACION

POES THAT ARE CLOSER TO ASUNCION ARE UPDATED WEEKLY BY FAXING THE RECORDS TO HEADQUARTERS AND ALSO FORWARDING THE INFORMATION ON HARD DISK. POES IN THE FAR CORNERS OF PARAGUAY ARE UPDATED EVERY FIFTEEN DAYS BY THE SAME METHOD.

THE NEW BIOMETRIC SYSTEM WILL AFFORD REAL TIME UPDATES AT ALL POES.

1B. (SBU) WATCHLIST AND INFORMATION SHARING:

1) (SBU) IS THERE A NAME-BASED WATCHLIST SYSTEM USED TO SCREEN TRAVELERS AT POES?

THE WATCHLIST SYSTEM CONSISTS OF INFORMATION FORWARDED TO IMMIGRATION BY THE GOP'S JUDICIAL BRANCH. UPON RECEIPT OF A JUDICIAL ORDER AT HEADQUARTERS, THE RESPONSIBLE IMMIGRATION OFFICE THEN FAXES THE ORDER TO ALL POES AND THIS DATA IS

ENTERED INTO EACH STAND-ALONE COMPUTER. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SILVIO PETTIROSSI AIRPORT, GUARANI AIRPORT AND ENCARNACION LAND BORDER, RECORDS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY ENTERED AND TRAVELERS ARE NOT SCREENED AGAINST THEIR DATABASE UNTIL THE TRAVELER HAS ALREADY ENTERED OR DEPARTED PARAGUAY. ONCE IMPLEMENTED, THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ALLOW IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT ALL POES ACCESS TO CURRENT RECORDS IN IMMIGRATION'S DATABASE, WHICH INCLUDE TRAVELERS WATCHLISTED BY THE GOP'S JUDICIAL BRANCH. INTERPOL AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT WATCHLISTS MAY BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.

2) (SBU) WHAT DOMESTIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION POPULATE THE NAME-BASED WATCHLIST, I.E. NAMES OF DEPORTED PERSONS, TERRORIST LOOKOUTS, CRIMINAL WANTS/WARRANTS?

THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT IS ON THE WATCHLIST ARE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN PROCESSED FOR CRIMES IN PARAGUAY OR HAVE DEPARTURE RESTRICTIONS PLACED BY THE COURT. THIS INFORMATION IS DERIVED FROM CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

3) (SBU) WHAT INTERNATIONAL WATCHLISTS DO HOST COUNTRIES USE FOR SCREENING INDIVIDUALS? SUCH AS INTERPOL OR TSA NO FLY LISTS, UN, ETC.

IMMIGRATION DOES NOT HAVE CONNECTIVITY TO INTERPOL OR ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL WATCHLIST DATABASES. ACCORDING TO GOP'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR, IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MAINTAIN A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH AIRLINE PERSONNEL AND CLAIM THEY ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM AIRLINE DATABASES WHEN NEEDED, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A REGULAR PRACTICE.

4) (SBU) WHAT BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL WATCHLIST AGREEMENTS EXIST BETWEEN HOST GOVERNMENT AND ITS NEIGHBORS?

NONE

1C. (SBU) BIOMETRICS

1) (SBU) ARE BIOMETRIC SYSTEMS IN PLACE AT PORTS OF ENTRY (AIR, LAND, SEA)? IF NO, DOES EACH COUNTRY HAVE PLANS TO INSTALL SUCH A SYSTEM?

NO. THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT DONATED A COMPUTERIZED ENTRY/EXIT IMMIGRATION SYSTEM WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE DEPLOYED IN EARLY 2007. THE SYSTEM WILL ALLOW BIOMETRIC FINGERPRINTING FOR BOTH ENTRY AND EXIT.

2) (SBU) WHAT BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGIES, IF ANY, DO THE COUNTRIES USE, I.E. FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION, FACIAL RECOGNITION, IRIS RECOGNITION, HAND GEOMETRY, RETINAL IDENTIFICATION, DNA-BASED IDENTIFICATION, KEYSTROKE DYNAMICS, GAIT ANALYSIS? ARE THE SYSTEMS ICAO COMPLIANT?

NO BIOMETRICS ARE CURRENTLY IN USE. THE NEW KOREAN-DONATED EXIT AND ENTRY SYSTEM WILL ALLOW FOR BIOMETRIC FINGERPRINTING. INSTALLATION OF THE EXIT AND ENTRY SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO HAVE INITIAL ACCESS TO ONLY THE IMMIGRATION DATA BASE. THERE ARE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SYSTEM TO HAVE CONNECTIVITY TO QUERY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENTAL DATA BASES, SIMILAR TO U.S. VISIT. BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS MAY DETER HIS PLAN. THE KOREAN DONATED BIOMETRIC SYSTEM IS ICAO COMPLIANT.

3) (SBU) DO THE HOST COUNTRIES ISSUE A MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORT CONTAINING BIOMETRIC INFORMATION? IF SO, WHAT BIOMETRIC INFORMATION IS INCLUDED ON THE DOCUMENT, I.E. FINGERPRINT, IRIS, FACIAL RECOGNITION, ETC? IF NOT, DO THEY PLAN TO ISSUE A BIOMETRIC DOCUMENT IN THE FUTURE? WHEN?

PARAGUAY DOES NOT ISSUE MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS AT THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO THE (NOW FORMER) DIRECTOR OF THE PASSPORT OFFICE, PARAGUAY PLANS TO BEGIN ISSUING PHOTO DIGITIZED PASSPORTS SOME TIME IN MID 2007.

1D. (C) IDENTIFYING APPROPRIATE PARTNERS:

1) (C) AT THIS TIME, POST DOES NOT SUPPORT SHARING U.S. DATA WITH THE OFFICE OF PARAGUAYAN IMMIGRATION. THEY DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DATE ENTER AND/OR UTILIZE THIS INFORMATION.

PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE ONCE THE BIOMETRIC ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM IS UP AND RUNNING, U.S. WATCHLIST AND/OR OTHER DATA SHARING MAY BE POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, HE WELCOMES ANY AND ALL WATCHLIST INFORMATION, TO INCLUDE POLITICAL DISSIDENTS THAT THE USG MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. IF THE USG DOES ENTER INTO DATA SHARING WITH PARAGUAYAN IMMIGRATION, THE DIRECTOR ASSURED CONS CHIEF THAT ALL INFORMATION WOULD BE PROTECTED AND ONLY AVAILABLE TO APPROPRIATE IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL IN REGARD TO OFFICIAL IMMIGRATION FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES. POST SHARES GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND THEY REGULARLY

PROVIDE INFORMATION FROM THEIR DATA BASE FOR CONSULAR AND LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED QUERIES. THE IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR TOLD CONS CHIEF THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE ADVANCE INFORMATION TO U.S. POES, IF REQUESTED, ON TRAVELERS DESTINED FOR THE U.S.  
CASON